



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/534,708	03/24/2000	Robert G. Arseneault	PD-980130	2593
20991	7590	09/22/2005	EXAMINER	
THE DIRECTV GROUP INC			TRAN, HAI V	
PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION RE/R11/A109			ART UNIT	
P O BOX 956			PAPER NUMBER	
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245-0956			2611	
DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/534,708	Applicant(s) ARSENAULT ET AL.	
	Examiner Hai Tran	Art Unit 2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/01/2005 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 07/01/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues, "Gordon et al. does not disclose or suggest that a conditional logic expression COULD or SHOULD BE included in a channel object. For example, while Gordon et al. discloses that a receiver should carry out some evaluation (i.e., conditional access) to determine if a program should be processed, Gordon et al. does not disclose or suggest that the receiver should carry out a conditional logic expression that is contained in the channel object."

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant because it's known that conditional logic expression (Boolean) is used in computer processing for determining a process. Thus, Gordon's arranging bitmap information in different data

blocks, is "a conditional logic expression" because Gordon system refers to arranged bitmap information for identifying what types of access allowed (see page 9, sec. 0088).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 28-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being Gordon by US 2001/0056577A1.

Claim 1, Gordon discloses a method of broadcasting TV content and program guide data (Fig. 1 and 2), the TV content (video sources) divided into a plurality of TV channels (i.e., FOX... page 6, sect. 0065), each TV channel constructed from at least one content component (page 6, sect. 0065), the program guide data including multiple channel objects (page 5, sect. 0050), each channel object (Fig. 1, el. 135; Fig. 11-14, el. 610-1..8), associated with one of the TV channels (Fig. 11A-14; i.e. CNN associates with channel 5), each channel object (TV program Icons, i.e. CNN), including at least one channel definition (i.e., video PID) that identifies the channel content components needed to construct the TV channel associated with that

channel object for display (page 16, sect. 0155-0156 and page 18, section 0184), wherein the method comprising:

Providing the TV content and the program guide data (Fig. 4);

Adding conditional logic to channel objects (page 9, sect. 0088) that include more than one channel definition, the conditional logic including one or more conditional logic including conditions expressions (Gordon's arranging bitmap information in different data blocks, is "a conditional logic expression" because Gordon system refers to arranged bitmap information for identifying what types of access allowed in using conditional logic expression, i.e. Boolean) that must be evaluated by a receiver (the conditional access is evaluated by the receiver unique terminal identification see page 7, sect. 0070) to identify a 1st channel definition or a 2nd channel definition, the 1st channel definition being associated with a 1st video component or a 1st audio component, and the 2nd channel definition being associated with a 2nd video component or a 2nd audio component (the receiver with its unique terminal identification (page 7, sect. 0070) identifies which channel definition associates with corresponding channel object that is allow displaying on the TV, i.e., PPV, VOD or subscription services like HBO, Showtimes, etc... see page 8, sect. 0085-0087 and page 9, section 0088);

Combining the TV content and the program guide data into an output stream (Fig. 4, el. 450); and broadcasting the output stream to a plurality of receivers (page 6, sect. 0062-page 7, sect. 0070).

Claim 29, wherein one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is based on subscription data representing channels to which a user subscribes (page 8, sect. 0084-0088).

Claim 30, wherein one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is based on selection history data representing programs that a user has previously watched (page 9, sect 0098; page 15, sect 0144-0148; page 17, sect.0174).

Claim 31, wherein one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is based on receiver characteristics data representing a characteristic of the receivers (page 9, sect. 0091-92).

Claim 32, wherein the receiver characteristic data includes geographic location data representing a specific geographic location, and one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is based on the geographic location data (page 9, sect. 0098).

Claim 33, wherein the receiver characteristics data includes at least one identification code that uniquely identifies a receiver, and one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is based on the identification code (page 7, sect. 0070).

Claim 34, wherein the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is based on both the current time at the site of the receivers and subscription data representing channels to which users of the receivers subscribe (page 5, section 0057-059; page 8, sect. 0085 and page 10, sect 0102).

Claim 35, wherein one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object associated with a pay per view television channel is based on the current time at the site of the receivers and pay per view purchase data representing pay per view programs that have been ordered by a user (page 5, section 0057-059; page 8, sect. 0087 and page 10, sect 0102).

Claim 36, Gordon discloses a method of receiving television content and program guide data that is broadcast from a television broadcasting station (Fig. 2), the TV content (video sources) divided into a plurality of TV channels (i.e., FOX... page 6, sect. 0065), each TV channel constructed from at least one channel content component (video encoder of Fig. 4; page 6, sect. 0065), the program guide data including multiple channel objects (page 5, sect. 0050), each channel object (Fig. 1, el. 135; Fig. 11-14, el. 610-1..8) associated with one of the TV channels (Fig. 11A-14; i.e. CNN associates with channel 5), each channel object (TV program icons, i.e. CNN), including at least one channel definition (i.e., video PID) that identifies the channel content components including a video component or an audio component needed to construct the TV channel associated with that channel object for display

(page 16, sect. 0155-0156 and page 18, section 0184), each channel object with more than one channel definition including conditional logic (page 9, sect. 0088) having one or more conditional logic expression (Gordon's arranging bitmap information in different data blocks, is "a conditional logic expression" because Gordon system refers to arranged bitmap information for identifying what types of access allowed) including conditions that must be evaluated to identify an appropriate channel definition (the conditional access is evaluated by the receiver unique terminal identification see page 7, sect. 0070), the method comprising:

Receiving the TV content and the program guide data by a receiver station that includes a receiver;

Storing the program guide data in a memory 276 (sect. 0092);

Receiving a tuning request that selects a TV channel (page 3, sect. 0036);

Responding to the tuning request by evaluating the conditions in the one or more conditional logic expressions (Gordon's arranging bitmap information in different data blocks, is "a conditional logic expression" because Gordon system refers to arranged bitmap information for identifying what types of access allowed) of the channel object associated with the selected TV channel and identifying a 1st channel definition or a 2nd channel definition for that TV channel (page 3, sect. 0037-0040); the 1st channel definition being associated with a 1st video component or a 1st audio component, and the 2nd channel definition being associated with a 2nd video component or a 2nd audio component (page 7, sect. 0073-page 8, sect 0077; sect. 0081-0087); and

Generating an output of the selected TV channel, the output including the channel content components identified by the 1st channel definition or the 2nd channel definition (page 5, sect-0056-page 6, sect. 0060 and page 7, sect.0075).

Claim 37 apparatus claim is analyzed with respect to method claim 36.

Claims 38-40, Gordon further discloses wherein the 1st channel definition comprises a channel definition defining channel content components associated with a user who have purchased a program or an event, and wherein the 2nd channel definition comprises a channel definition defining channel content components associated with a user who have not purchased a program or an event (page 8, sect. 0087-0088; page 9, sect. 0095-0098).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher C. Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2611

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HT:ht
09/16/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hai Tran', is written over two horizontal lines.

**HAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**